

TITLE: Conditions of Risk

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~~SECRET~~*Recipients of the Intelligence Star***CONDITIONS OF RISK****Carl P. Fedkiw**

The statue of Nathan Hale that stands outside the main entrance of the Headquarters building of the Central Intelligence Agency is a constant reminder that intelligence work has historically carried with it a considerable element of risk. In the lobby of the building, 52 stars are carved into the marble wall in memory of those CIA employees who have given their lives in the service of their country. Fifteen of them have been awarded the Agency's Intelligence Star. This medal recognizes voluntary displays of courage performed under hazardous conditions or outstanding achievements or services rendered with distinction under conditions of grave personal risk.

On 15 March 1954, Director of Central Intelligence Allen W. Dulles approved the establishment of a series of internally controlled CIA honor awards. In its original submission, the CIA Honor Awards Board recommended that one of these awards be called the CIA Meritorious Service Medal (with Device for Valor). DDCI Lieutenant General C. P. Cabel, however, recommended that the Awards Board "make a strenuous effort to dream up names for final approval which will not include 'CIA' but might have some legendary relation to intelligence, such as, for example, 'The Cross of the Scarlet Cord.' " * The Awards Board subsequently changed the name of the Meritorious Service Medal to the Intelligence Star.

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As of 1 December 1988, 190 Agency employees have received this award. The first recipients, Earl M. Harter and [redacted] were approved for the award on 11 November 1954. Both were in the Directorate of Operations, and they received the award for acts of courage while involved in covert operations.

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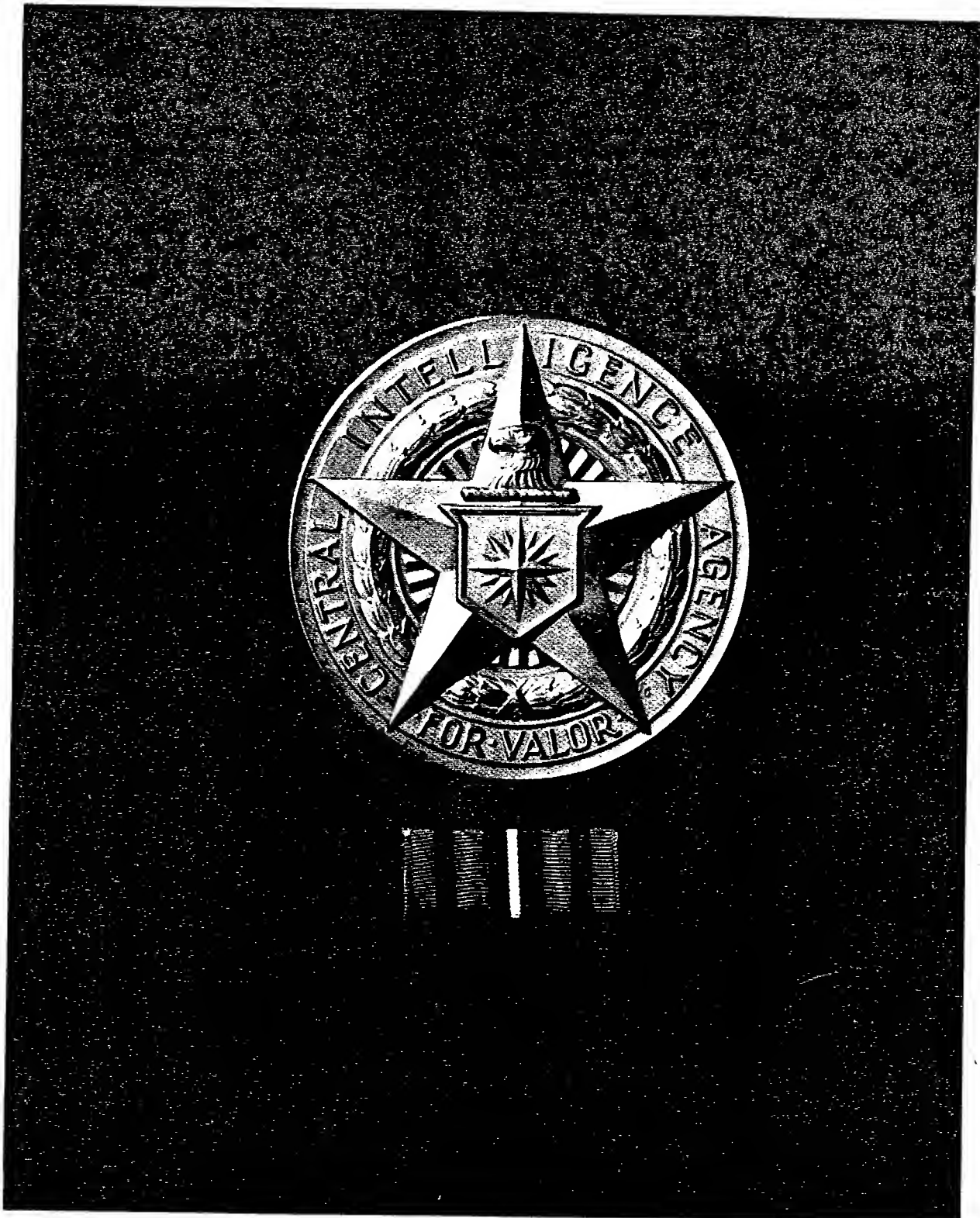
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* The "scarlet cord" refers to the biblical story of Rahab, a prostitute in Jericho who hid in her house two spies sent by Joshua to gather information on the city before its invasion. After helping the spies to escape, Rahab marked her house by tying a scarlet cord in its window. Only she and her family survived the subsequent conquest of Jericho.

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